

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /096 W
-----115274 221304Z /53

R 221058Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6684
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2218

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AO, US
SUBJECT: SECOND THOUGHTS AFTER RETURN FROM LUANDA

REF: LAGOS 1955

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BELIEVE THAT AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA UNDER SWAPO CONTROL WOULD CUT OFF SUPPORT THAT UNITA NOW ENJOYS FROM NAMIBIAN BASES AND SUPPLY LINES.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE AF AND INR COMMENT ON:
A) EXTENT TO WHICH THIS ASSESSMENT OF ANGOLAN ATTITUDES IS BUTTRESSED BY OTHER INTELLIGENCES;
B) VALIDITY OF THE ANTI-UNITA THESIS.

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3. LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION WITH ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR BADEMA SUGGESTS THAT, IN SPITE OF 'DREADFUL MISTAKE' HE MADE IN ACCEPTING SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN 1975, SAVIMBI WOULD CLEARLY WIN POPULARITY CONTEST OVER NETO IN EYES MOST AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. BADEMA, WHO HAS HAD BROAD EXPERIENCE ON OAU AND LIBERATION COMMITTEE SCENE, MAINTAINS THAT MANY AFRICANS

ARE 'EMBARRASSED' BY METISSE CHARACTER OF MPLA ELITE. HE BELIEVES
THAT SWAPO MIGHT DECIDE IT HAD MORE TO GAIN FROM CONTINUED
SUPPORT TO CHARISMATIC 'TRUE BLACK' NATIONALIST SAVIMBI THAN
FROM ALLYING ITSELF WITH 'COLORLESS' NETO.
EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Remarks:
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